

THE LEDGER.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1891.

J. T. NELSON & RICKETTS, Real Estate, Loan

Insurance and Abstract Office
No. 11 Harper Block, Mexico, Mo.
OUR FACILITIES ARE COMPLETE IN EVERY DEPARTMENT.
We are owners of the Audrain County Complete Abstract Books, and can furnish Abstracts or Examines Land Titles on short notice.

Real estate bought, sold or rented. Fire, Accident and Life Insurance written in best companies.

MONEY TO LOAN
In sums to suit at 7 per cent annual interest with the privilege of paying any part of all loans at any time and stop interest.

No Commission Charged.
We Defy Competition.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Younger, a son.
Willie Meyers is very sick with pneumonia fever.

J. T. Fleming, of Wellsburg, is in the city on business.
Miss Pollard, of Sturgeon, is the guest of friends in the city.

Arnold McKee is up from St. Louis for a week's vacation.
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Kennan are in Columbia visiting friends.

J. S. Swope, of Brunswick, is in the city on a visit to friends.
M. H. McCue shipped one car of cattle to St. Louis yesterday.

Butler Guthrie left last night for Liberty, Mo., to resume school.
Geo. Reimert, of Fort-tell, was the guest of Dr. Halley Sunday.

Mitchell White, son of R. M. White, is very ill of diphtheria.
Miss Maude Wise, of McCredie, was a visitor in our city to-day.

Our old friend, Shelt Reiley, will read the daily LEDGER this year.
Geo. F. McConas, of Steelville, is in the city visiting old-time friends.

The Salamander is going to put in twelve new patent smokeless kins.
The Southern Bank declared its usual semi-annual dividend last Saturday.

W. H. Robertson and Miss L. M. Tharp were licensed to wed last Saturday.
J. M. Pollard and wife are in Shelbyville, Illinois, on a visit to relatives.

Dr. Nichols has been re-appointed local surgeon for the Wabash Railroad.
W. A. Hunter is home from a pleasant visit to relatives in Johnson City, Tenn.

Dr. C. A. Rothwell left to-day for St. Louis to attend the Missouri Medical College.
Geo. Williams and wife, of Higbee, are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Settle.

Harry Hollister is home on a visit and looks as though the world was using him well.
The hop at the Ringo Hotel parlors last night was one of the most enjoyable affairs of the season.

Uncle Abe Tinsley went to Kentucky this week on a visit. He was accompanied by Jas. Medley, of Ladonia.
John Finkenschier has moved his cigar manufactory into the front room up stairs over S. N. Evans, the tailor.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Hanna, of Moberly, a son. Mrs. Hanna was formerly Miss Stella Dingle, of this city.
Miss Alma Reiley returned yesterday from a pleasant visit to friends and relatives at Houstonia and Higginsville.

Hugh Voorhies, of St. Louis, who has been spending a few days with his friend, Jim Wilkins, returned home Sunday.
Mrs. Hutton, Hickman, Houghland and Grantham left to-day for St. Louis to attend the Marion-Sims College of Medicine.

The Mexico Savings Bank at their semi-annual meeting Saturday, declared a dividend of 4 per cent; surplus 2 per cent.
The First National Bank has declared a semi-annual dividend of 6 per cent 4 per cent; as surplus 2 per cent for stockholders.

John Sullinger is home from Ft. Smith, Ark., and is delighted with Mexico's progress. He has a fine position and will return shortly.
Prosser Ray, a prominent politician and a leading lawyer of the State, died very suddenly of apoplexy at Jefferson City Sunday morning.

The rate war is on with the railroads and it seems to be a wide breach. It is claimed by railroad men that in all probability it will extend all over the entire western country before the breach is healed.
U. S. Hall, President of the State Alliance, was in the City Monday on his way to Jefferson City. Mr. Hall expressed himself as being perfectly satisfied with the action of the Alliance all over the State and says they are in perfect harmony with themselves.

A MANIAC'S DEED.

Horrible Butchery of Man and Wife.

A Husband and Father's Fearful Crazy Crime.

FIELDEN T. BYRNS CUTS HIS WIFE'S THROAT.

He Then Sinks the Razor Deep into His Own Neck.

Mrs. Byrns Expires on Tuesday Night.

BYRNS WRITES A LETTER WITH HIS THROAT CUT.

He is Not Responsible for the Deed—A Raving Maniac at the Time—The Woman Lives Twelve Hours in Her Frightful Condition.

The most frightful spectacle that man ever witnessed was the sight presented Tuesday morning at the home of Mrs. John H. Byrns, 4 miles west of Mexico, where her son, Fielden T. Byrns, and his wife lay with their throats cut at the most fearful and terrible scene.

Strong men turned from the scene and shuddered, the sickening spectacle being too much for them. Fielden Byrns had cut his wife's throat and then horribly slashed his own.

He was temporarily insane when the deed was done.
In a one-story frame house not more than 200 yards south of the Wabash railroad tracks at a point about 2 miles this side of Thompson, the Byrns' reside. John H. Byrns, the head of the family, was adjudged insane last May and taken to the asylum at Fulton.

George and Fielden Byrns and the latter's wife and children live with Mrs. Byrns. This made up the household. At intervals Fielden has acted in a manner to indicate that he was not of sound mind, but nothing was thought of the matter, as he was never considered dangerous. Some few weeks ago it was noticed he was getting worse and a trip to Hot Springs was made by Fielden and his brother George, who returned Monday morning. The trip seemed to have little or no good effect on the mind of Fielden, who was restless all day Monday and also all that night. It seemed as though he was possessed of an hallucination that he was going to die or be placed in an insane asylum. Neither his wife nor other members of the household could comfort him.

Byrns and wife retired Monday night together. On arising early Tuesday morning the wife found her husband much in the same state of mind as the night previous—a little worse, if anything. He talked wildly of suicide, but nobody supposed he would attempt to kill himself, especially then. The trunk the brothers brought home from the Springs contained a razor and this was the instrument of destruction used. Fielden secured the razor Monday night on some pretext or other. Before daylight Byrns got out of bed and dressed himself and left the house, starting towards a woods pasture just south-east of the dwelling. Mrs. Byrns followed and overtook him. This was about daylight. Byrns still had his mind bent on suicide, and it is thought his wife, now knowing he had the razor, pleaded with him not to kill himself, probably telling him if he must die to kill her too. The supposition is, that when they reached a point about 150 yards from the house, they stopped and were talking, when Byrns, in a fit of desperation, threw his wife to the ground, caught her by the hair, held her head back and drew the razor across her throat. He then cut his own throat. The frost on the ground showed there had been a desperate struggle, which is also evidenced by the cuts of the razor on the wife's hands. The first to reach the spot was George Byrns, attracted by the cries of his brother, who, although his windpipe was severed, managed to give the alarm. When George arrived the wife was prostrate, the blood gushing from her wound, and Fielden was standing over her, razor in hand, a raving maniac. George helped both to the house. The spot where the deed was committed was covered for a space of six square feet with blood. Man and wife presented a horrible sight—face hands, body and clothing being dyed in blood.

When the LEDGER's reporter arrived, about 11 o'clock, the house was full of neighbors and friends, lending all the aid possible. Drs. Rothwell, Hally, Cave and Baskett were operating upon the throat of Mrs. Byrns, which contained a gash fully five inches across, which had completely severed the windpipe, although the jugular vein was not cut. A man's doublet had been shoved into the

wound in her throat. Mrs. Byrns seemed unconscious of the operation of stitching and tying up the severed ligaments inside the throat, until a sponge or something would be inserted in the gap, when she would partially open her eyes and gasp for breath, at the same time a shudder passing over her body as if in great pain. She was lying upon an improvised table and her face and features bore the appearance of death. There is absolutely no chance for Mrs. Byrns to live any length of time. In the next room the reporter found Fielden, who was sitting in a chair, with several friends on either side. Apparently he didn't seem to be suffering a great deal. The gash in his throat was three inches in length, his windpipe being nearly or quite severed. The reporter got down on his knees and looked into the wound, and it seemed to the writer as though it extended nearly as far as the cut in the woman's throat. At 12 o'clock the surgeons had not made an examination of Byrns' wound, hence they could give no intelligent opinion regarding his prospects of recovery. While we were present Fielden called for a glass of water, which, as it went into his mouth, came out of the throat where his bullet to the stomach was severed. There is not one chance in a thousand for him to live. He makes desperate attempts at speech, but his words are nearly all unintelligible, and there is a gurgling, rattling sound that comes from his mouth. He seemed rational enough when trying to talk to the reporters, and one sentence he said so as to be understood with much difficulty. Leaning forward he remarked, "I want her to get well." After several other ineffectual attempts to articulate, he gave it up and wrote down what he had to say. Paper and pencil were handed him by a newspaper man and he wrote in rather a plain, good hand, and without seemingly experiencing any pain or difficulty, the following lines:

Remember me when I am gone and my dear wife which I have murdered. My case is sickness, falling in health. My wife said she would please not hurt her for the sake of our children. She said she had rather for me to die than go to the Fulton asylum, and I started out with my razor to kill myself, but she would not let me without killing her first, although she said please don't kill us for the sake of our children. She has been a good wife to me all of my lives, so I don't put any blame on her. So after we are dead and gone think of us and our dear children. Walker, our boy, is 7 years old and our little girl is 5 years old next February. I am getting quite weak and must close by bidding you farewell, so please remember our dear children in your prayers.

Yours Truly,
F. T. BYRNS, and LINA T. BYRNS.

The spectacle of a man with his throat cut from ear to ear almost, and bleeding like a stuck hog, with pencil in hand, writing while nearer death than alive, is one certainly not met with but once in a lifetime. The most pitiable and heartrending sight witnessed was Byrns on his knees with his hands uplifted to God in silent prayer. His lips moved; no sound was heard. The neighbors said he had been praying nearly all morning. At times Byrns was rational; at other times the reporter thought he was not. His circulation and general condition was better than that of his wife. There is a bare possibility that he may survive, but all those who saw his condition thought he could not. Fielden Byrns is 31 years old and his wife is 27. They were married about nine years ago. Mrs. Byrns' maiden name being Lina Olin. She is a daughter of the late Martin Olin, who was in life well known in this county. Mrs. Olin, Mrs. Byrns' mother, who lives in Atchison county, is at the house on a visit. Mrs. Olin is a sister to Mrs. Joan H. Byrns. Thus it will be seen that by the ties on consanguinity Byrns and his wife are own cousins.

They have two children—a boy and a girl, aged 5 and seven years. They are people in the ordinary walks of life and it is plain to be seen that intelligence is not the chief characteristic of the family. Fielden is under size, with a peculiar shaped head, while his wife physically is a frail looking body. The razor that did the bloody work had three large pieces broken out of the blade. This is probably the reason a cleaner cut was not made in Byrns' throat. Razor and case were found on the ground where the throats were cut. For sometime after the tragedy—for tragedy it will be—Byrns was so furiously wild that it took half a dozen strong men to hold him. His hands, also, were cut by the razor. Alf. Canterbury, Wm. A. Hunter, Lum Day, Henry Cate, and one or two others, were the first neighbors to arrive. They say Byrns was a raving maniac when they got to the house. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Brown, relatives, spent the day at Byrns' Monday and said they thought Fielden was much worse than they ever knew him.

Several members of the family stated that Byrns spoke frequently of suicide, and for this reason, and to pacify him, Mrs. Byrns remained with her husband nearly all the time. However, they did not for an instant suppose he would carry his threats into execution.

The two little children were playing about the yard, utterly unconscious of the terrible calamity that had befallen the household, and did not seem to realize that the lives of those who should have been their protectors were hanging in the balance, with chances in favor of death. Such a spectacle this writer never wants to again witness.

An unlucky star, it would seem, hovers over the Byrns family. It hasn't been a great while ago since George Byrns, brother of Fielden, married a young lady in Vandalia. Their married life was of short duration. Her clothing caught fire from a burning brush pile and she was burned to death. Now, the aged husband and father in a mad house, and son and daughter-in-law in the horrible condition they are now. No wonder the aged mother is bowed down with grief. They are respectable people and the family is one of the oldest in Audrain county, John H. Byrns and wife being pioneer settlers.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.
Correspondence to the Ledger.
Thompson Mo., Jan. 6.—A terrible tragedy took place at Mrs. Byrns', two miles east of here at daylight this morning. Fielden Byrns some time since sold his effects, moved his family to his mother's, and shortly afterwards went to the springs for his health. Yesterday morning he returned and this morning about daylight he got up and told his wife that he was going to cut his throat. She tried to dissuade him and thought that he laid his razor away, but he secreted it about his person and started to leave the house. She went with him and after they had gone a short distance they stopped and talked a little while and then it seems that he cut his own throat and that she attempted to stop him from doing so and then he turned on her and cut a terrible gash in her wrist, then severed her windpipe.

Mrs. Byrns Dead.
Mrs. Fielden T. Byrns died Tuesday eve at 7:30 o'clock of the fearful injuries received from her insane husband on Tuesday morning. The funeral will take place this afternoon at 2 o'clock and the remains will be interred in the old Brown graveyard, west of town. Rev. W. J. Jesse will preach the funeral. Mrs. Byrns was a member of the Baptist church; Fielden is a member of the same church.

Mrs. Byrns passed peacefully away. She recovered from the anesthetics administered before the physicians were through stitching up the wound, and while they were at work made several attempts to talk. When her throat had been sewed together she was able to say a few words. While she was being clothed in clean apparel some of her garments could not be found. She told the lady attendants where they were. Mrs. Byrns doubtless could have told how the affair occurred if she had been allowed to talk. Once, while the doctors were stitching up her throat, she said, "You hurt me."

Fielden is kept in ignorance of his wife's death. Every few minutes he asks about her, and prays for her to get well. He wails and moans for her constantly and asks to be let into the room where she is. Byrns is in about the same condition he was yesterday. The doctors patched him up all right, and he may get well, but the chances are against him. He sits up and lies down alternately and is still in a restless state of mind.

LETTER LIST.
Mexico, Mo., Jan. 8, 1891.
[LIST OF LETTERS REMAINING IN THE POST OFFICE AT MEXICO, MO., FOR THE WEEK ENDING JAN. 8, 1891, AND WHICH, IF NOT CALLED FOR WITHIN TWO WEEKS, WILL BE SENT TO THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.]

Remind Miss Alice
Bergman M. E. Reimund Miss L. B. Chubbuck Levi
Day M. A. Taylor Mrs. Ann
Dougherty H. W. Watts D. R.
Jones Mrs. Mary Williams Chas.
Johnson Ben T. Wallace Oscar
Poor Alice

JNO. W. BEATTY, P. M.
Harrison Bros., of Auxvasse, sold their fine saddle gelding, "Red Rose," to Mrs. Mark M. Coad, of Fremont, Neb., for \$1,250 cash. "Red Rose" carried off the strings at all the fairs last fall as the best saddle gelding; took first money also at the Illinois State Fair. They also sold a saddle mare to same party for \$200.

Mrs. J. H. Hardisty, who lived 6 miles northeast of Mexico, died Sunday morning at 7 o'clock. Her remains were brought to this city Tuesday for interment. She was the mother of Mrs. J. P. Dobyns, of this city.

In the case of Wayman Vangelder vs. Lewis Phillip for a right of easement over Mr. Phillip's stairway in his store, Judge Hughes Friday returned judgment for Mr. Phillip. John M. Barker, of this city, was attorney for Mr. Phillip.

There will be a supper at Wesley Chapel, 14 miles northeast of Mexico, next Tuesday night, the proceeds of which will be for the benefit of the church. Supper, including oysters, 50 cents per couple. All are cordially invited to be present.

Thos. Hughes, who went to Hot Springs for his health, writes back that he is fast improving and that he is the happiest man on earth.

Rev. and Mrs. E. L. Rutledge left this afternoon for Hallsville to visit friends. While there Rev. Rutledge will marry a young couple.

Ed. H. Kunkel has been appointed to a position in the railway mail service and will run over the C. & A. from St. Louis to Kansas City.

Dick Branch, of St. Louis, who has been visiting Green Clay, Jr., left this afternoon for home.

A. W. Wolf, of Washington, Pa., is in the city.

UNION ITEMS.

Correspondence of the Ledger.

Union, January 5.—John Byrns sold to Wallace & Co. twenty fat hogs at 3 cents.

Wood Maddox shipped two car loads of mules to St. Louis last week.

R. T. Freeman & Son sold to Kidwell & Hamilton one car load mules. They have 70 head on hand feeding at present.

Most of the farmers here will have plenty of feed to run them this winter.

Town Talk: You have our sympathy in your misfortune and hope to see you on top again.

We expect "Puella" knows more about conducting a Sunday school than he does about playing euchre, but come over and we will make it warm for you.

Chas. McIntyre, of Pendleton, Oregon, Robt. Byrns, of Columbia, Basil Brown, of Fulton, Eugene McIntyre, of St. Louis, Will Eller and Claude Brothers, of Kirksville, came home to spend Xmas with home folks.

D. S. Burroughs has purchased of L. K. King, of Marshall, Saline county, a fine Berkshire boar.

Will and Lute Payne have rented George Brown's farm for this year.

We wish to say to the readers of the LEDGER around here, if you know of any news, please send it to us. We are paid a yearly salary by the editor of the LEDGER to report items of interest from this place and we are bound to have them. We will pay you handsomely for any items of interest, as we intend to have the news at any cost.

John Byrns has been remodeling John X. Brown's ice house. John X. says all the months may fail, but March never fails, and he expects to harvest a good crop of ice yet.

Who.
CHURCH BURNED.

Liberty Church Destroyed by Fire Sunday.

Liberty Church, about 6 miles west of Mexico, owned by the "Old Baptists" and Christian denominations, was burned at 1 p. m. Sunday. It caught from the flue and was found to be on fire just as church was out, but nothing could be done as there was no water. The church was worth \$500; the books and benches were saved. The Baptists had their hall insured. The Christians had none on their part.

Audrain County Medical Society
The Audrain County Medical Society met Saturday night in the office of Dr. Cave. Members present were Drs. Baskett, Rothwell, Blankenship, Berry, Reagan, J. H. and M. E. Crawford and Cave. Several cases were reported and discussed. A committee, consisting of Drs. R. W. Berry, M. E. Crawford and T. P. Rothwell, was appointed to draft suitable resolutions in regard to the death of Dr. Walker and to report at a memorial meeting to be held next Saturday night. The following were elected officers for this year: President, Dr. M. E. Crawford; Vice-President, Dr. T. P. Rothwell; Secretary, Dr. E. S. Cave; Treasurer, W. P. Blankenship.

THE HAND OF DEATH.
It Falls Upon One of the City's Most Amiable Ladies, Mrs. Wm. Pasqueth.

At 5 o'clock Monday afternoon the white winged messenger of death bore the spirit of Mrs. Wm. Pasqueth through the white portals into eternity, while in the death chamber stood her weeping husband surrounded by a host of sympathizing friends, who were mute in the presence of the deep sorrow of the grief stricken husband, bearing a sad heart over the death of their associate and friend.

Mrs. Pasqueth's sickness was of a short duration, being that of a neuralgia of the stomach of a most malignant type and her death is deeply deplored. She was a consistent and faithful member of the Episcopal Church and died believing in the virtue of a living faith. She leaves a husband and one little child who deeply mourn her loss. She was a kind and loving mother and a true and faithful wife.

The funeral of Mrs. Wm. O. Pasqueth at the Episcopal Church yesterday was largely attended. The services were conducted by Rev. Matthews, assisted by Rev. A. W. Wallace. A large concourse of sorrowing friends followed her remains to the new cemetery, their last resting place, where they were deposited in the tomb.

The flowers that adorned the casket were of the most beautiful and appropriate character that we recollect to have seen at any funeral in Mexico. These handsome bouquets were three in number and were composed of exquisite white lilies, japonicas, violets, ferns and yellow and tea roses, yielding a pleasant perfume, and each had its appropriate inscription of "wife," "sister" and "our sister" in green.

Married, by Elder W. J. Jesse, on January 1, 1891, Mr. Joseph Bomar, of Bates county, and Miss Watts, of Audrain. Attendants, Mr. James Kirkpatrick and Miss Mary Wayne.

Everybody Come Right Now!

To Buy from the Great Piles of

CLOTHING!

Now Being Pushed.

Our Sales are Now Heavy

But We want Them Still Heavier.

THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SELL AT POPULAR PRICES.

Every man can buy a Coat or Suit for himself and boys. Come on right now and buy cheap.

Joe & Vic Barth, At the "Golden Eagle."

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS.

The Audrain County Sunday School Convention in Session.

The Audrain County Sunday School Convention convened Monday evening at 7 o'clock in the Liberty Street M. E. Church, of this city. After a few introductory remarks by the President, H. K. Hinde, and song and praise service, J. H. Parsons, State Sunday School Agent, was introduced and made an excellent address on "International and State Sunday School Association; Their Object." Mr. Parsons spoke feelingly upon this subject and at some length, and urged the necessity of working in unity and harmony. Several important speeches were made after the close of Mr. Parsons' address, one of which was made by J. V. Williams. Mr. Williams is nothing if not a Sunday School worker, and seemed at his very best last night. There are very few subjects that he cannot discuss better than the Sunday School of this country, always taking a pride in such work. He confined himself strictly to Sunday School work and more especially to International work. He gave a complete resume of the Pittsburg convention, held at Pittsburg, Pa., last fall. Mr. Williams was followed by J. N. Baskett, one of the delegates to the above convention. Mr. Baskett is an eloquent, original, fluent talker and takes a deep interest in the Sunday School work of the country. The meeting was a highly successful one last night and showed the earnestness with which workers were taking in the matter.

TUESDAY'S MEETING.
The attendance at last Tuesday's session was even larger than that of Monday night. The meeting is one of much interest to Sunday School workers and much good is being accomplished. After song and praise service, the time was devoted to hearing the reports of the Superintendents. The Superintendents of the Sunday School workers up to 10 o'clock, when the appointment of committees and miscellaneous matter came up for general discussion.

The address by Rev. A. A. Wallace, of the Sunday Schools of the Day, was a most interesting one for which They Were Organized? If not, Why not?" was one of the best during the entire session. Rev. Wallace always commands the best attention from his hearers and in this he did not detract in the least.

"How to Prepare and How to Teach the Lesson," by Rev. A. E. Rogers, was a splendid address and was well received by his listeners. Rev. Rogers is one of the very best Sunday School workers and is always enthusiastic in the work.

Rev. J. A. Mumpower gave an address on "The Relation of Church and Sunday School to Each Other," showing that perfect harmony must prevail within or success cannot be assured without. Rev. Mumpower is one of the best posted men in this community on the subject of Sunday School work, and his address was one of the very best addresses made during the whole meeting.

After several short addresses by members interested in Sunday School matter, the following officers were elected for the territory: President, H. K. Hinde; Secretary, J. N. Baskett; Treasurer, J. N. Baskett.

Executive Committee—J. V. Williams, Jas. Pasqueth, J. H. Lawler, J. F. Griffith, Dr. Watts, Dr. Reed, Dr. Rothwell, Eugene Jones, S. W. Downing, Samuel Patterson, R. H. Brown, Jr., J. H. Ware.

The following resolutions were adopted:
RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY TO DR. W. V. WALKER.
WHEREAS, An Allwise Father has sent in His providence to remove from our midst our fellow-worker and brother, Dr. W. V. Walker, therefore be it

Resolved, By the Audrain County Sunday School Association in convention assembled at Mexico the sixth day of January, 1891.

First, That in the death of Dr. Walker, this organization has lost an efficient officer; the Sunday school cause in Audrain county a most earnest and efficient worker; the cause of Christianity a most zealous advocate and exemplar; his church a most faithful and devoted member; the community an upright and honorable citizen; a skillful and conscientious physician; and his family a loving husband and God-fearing father.

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